A MASTERIA PRESENTATION OF THE APPAIRS OF THE EMPIRE STATE.

Reforms That Are Demanded in the Interest of All the Prople-The Present Unjust Apportionment of Senate and Assembly Districts-A New Enumeration Bemanded-The Excise Question-Probibitton-The Judiciary Amendment-Methods of Taxation-Marriage and Divorce -Rapid Transit for New York City-Contests for Legislative Offices - Strikes, Arbitration, and the Uso of Private Detectives During Labor Troubles-Federal Legislation-The World's Fair-The Financial Affairs of the State,

ALBANY, Jan. 6.- Gov. Hill sent the following essage to the Legislature to-day:

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EXATE OF NEW YORE,

EXAMENTIVE CHAMBER.

ALBANY, Jan. 6, 1891.

To THE LEGISLATURE: In entering upon the swenth and last year of my service as chief Executive of the State. I will not affect to conceal my gratification at the last that for the first time during the pasts seven years the popular branch of the Legislature is in political accord with the Executive.

I congratulate you and the people of the State that, notwithstanding the existence of sin unfair and unjust apportionment, the popular voice has at last found expression in the selection of one house of the Legislature which is in harmony with the sentiments of a majority of the people.

While it is true that one body alone cannot while it is true that one body alone cannot exact the legislation demanded by the public interests, yet it is believed that the potent influence of the recent popular vedict is such that the whole Legislature will now be inclined to respect the popular wishes which have been go emphatically manifested and heretotore so long disregarded.

The nessures which the people require are

The measures which the people require are The measures which well understood. Foremost among them is the proposition for an enumeration of the inhabitants of the State in conformity with the express requirements of the Constitution.

An exumeration is necessary for the purpose of basing thereon a reapportionment of the Senare and Assembly districts. The Federal census of 1890, delective as it is generally believed to be, demonstrates clearly the injustice of the present apportionment. That apportionment was based on an enumeration taken fitteen years ago, and since then the reputation of the State, according to the Federal Bureau's count, has increased more than 1.300.080. Nearly one-fourth of the inhabitants of the State have been denied, just representation by the Legislature's perfisient representation in the last fitteen years reduced that there have been in the last fitteen years reduced that there have been in the last fitteen years reduced the nearly state have grown proportionately. Jet 85.000 people in St. Lawrence county are represented in the Assembly by three members, while nearly eighteen times as many in New York, and ten times as many in Brooklyn, continue under the present apportionment to be represented by only eight and four times as many inembers respectively. Under a fair apportionment, based on an accurate enumeration, New York would be entitled to thirty-three or thirty-jour members of Assembly instead of twenty-four, and Kings county would have seventeen members instead of twelve. In the Senate, the section of the State Lelow the Harlem River would be represented by fourteen Nenators instead of eleven. It is a flagrant wrong longer to deny a lair representation to cities which pay more than half of the State taxes.

Inequitable, however, as the Federal census proves the present apportionment to be, it is believed that an accurate enumeration would be represented by the county deleted a deep seated misrust of the state such a course would be a useless waste of public more year. The need n

my vi-was upon this point since them. I desire at this time to reiterate that re-commendation, asserting, moreover, again, what I distinctly stated in that year, "that any bill providing for an enumeration of the inhabitants of the blate-and for that enumeration only-will be permitted to become a law, no matter by what methods or under the supervision of what other the enumeration is to be taken."

The duty of the Legislature is plain. It should provide for the taking of an enumeration, to the end that a fair and just amportionment may follow in due time. That duty cannot be neglected or evaded without a violation of the official onths of those who perpetrate the wrong. It should be faitfully performed regardless of political or other irrolevant considerations.

A decent respect for public opinion, repeatedly manifested upon this question, the conscitutions desire which may be assumed to exist on the part of the people's representatives to faithfully discharge a public duty, and the interests of the grawing sections of the State, all units in demanding that the Constitutional obligation be performed. at his time to reiterate that recommendation.

A JUST AND REASONABLE EXCISE LAW.

The necessity for a revision of existing Excise laws has been repeatedly demonstrated. It was in 1857—over thirty years ago—when the present partial or imperfect general Excise law new in force was enacted. Since that date our population has enormously increased, so that it is now about two-thirds greater than then, and with this increasing population, and more to concentration in our large cities and populous towns and villages, inevitable and iscided changes have come in the conditions under which the Excise laws must be administered. Numerous innovations have been wrought in the customs, as well as the opinions of the people during that long period, itestraints and regulations then enforceable are not now defective or sufficient. Many restrictions and methods of procedure then adopted are not now desirable. Provisions then applicable are not now appropriate or suited to large bodies of our most industrious and respectable citizens.

In the effort to meet the demands of these changed conditions habits and opinions of our people, numerous statutes have been enacted from time to time as additions to the general law of 1837, some of which, however, are independent acts, some are supplementary, others are amendatory and of many the provisions much judicial interpretation to reconcile and understand them.

The remedy is right, and was concisely stated several years ago by one of my distinguished predecessors in the following language: What is needed is to substitute for all existing laws on the subject a carefully prepared statute, reasonable in its limitations and restraints, clear and explicit in all its provisions, and, above all, complete in itself; to be uniformly, steadily and constantly enforced.

The provisions of such a general law should be fair, plain and concise, and so framed as to be capable of being easily understood, especially by those who are expected to obey it and who are so largely affected by its privileges and penalties.

It should be one eyemmetrical and c A JUST AND BRASONABLE EXCISE LAW.

cally by those who are expected to obey it and who are so largely affected by its privileges and jenalities.

It should be one symmetrical and comprehensive act, applicable to the whole State, list in its discriminations, devoid of favoritism, liberal in its provisions, strict in its penalities and responsive to the popular demands, but neiter in advance of public sentiment on the one hand nor largeling behind it on the other. The revenues to be derived from itenses should not be paid to the State, but should belong to the local treasuries of the particular localities under whose authority the licenses are granted to be at piled in reduction of local taxation.

It is believed that the people are opposed to oppressive sumpturary laws, and in the content state of the compressive sumpturary laws, and in the content with good order and the public safety, while at the same time not offending the moral sense of the community, but seeking to mitiste and suppress the conceded evils of interpretations. The fact that with the exception of a very few localities the amounts now charged for licenses throughout the State do not exceen one-third of the sums authorized to be charged under existing have, may be accepted as some evidence of local acultion that question, and may properly be considered in determining the property or necessity of increasing the maximum and minimum and slip of increasing the maximum and minimum and which should be authorized to whetever modifications of existing laws may be provised.

Any further expression of my views as to

further expression of my views as to deperal principles which should govern

and the details which should be embraced in the needed excise legislation, are regarded as unnecessary at this time, because they have been fully indicated in the various communi-cations upon this subject transmitted by me to previous Legislatures during the past five years, to which the present Legislature is re-spectfully referred.

cations upon this subject transmitted by meto previous Legislatures during the past five years, to which the present Legislature is respectfully referred.

THE PROMINITION AMENDMENT.

Two Legislatures having passed the Probibition amendment, it must now be submitted to the people agreeably to the provisions of the Constitution. It is the clear duty of the Legislature to provide for its submission. It is immaterial whether it would meet the approval of the present Legislature. If the question was presented to it on its original merits. The good latth or propriety of its passage of the present Legislature if the question was presented to it on its original merits. The good latth or propriety of its passage of other years cannot be properly considered now. The fact that it has heretofore been passed by a majority who really do not believe in prohibition and who supported it in the Legislature as a matter of political expediency rather than upon principle and who do not themselves intend to support it at the polis, is an irrelevant matter which only affects the sincerity of its support and does not relieve the present Legislature from the performance of what is conceived to be its sacred constitutional obligation to duly provide for the amendment's submission of the last Legislature in not itself providing by statute for the submission of the new and an accompany of the people either at the last or the next annual election, and particularly in declaring by a concurrent resolution that the antion of the neads and particularly in declaring by a concurrent resolution that the amendment should be submitted at a special election to be held on the second Tuesday of April 1891, without passing any law providing for the means or prescribing the method, manner and other details of such submission, has somewhat complicated the situation and rendered your duty a delicate and embarrasing one.

Whether the last Legislature could legally call a special election, but prefer that it should make the usual course and be passed upon

It is believed that after a careful investiga-tion of the questions of law and prooriety in-tolled, to which your attention is invited, it will be apparent that a difficult legislation is desirable as well as absolutely required, and that the most feasible and wisest course to be pursued is the speedy enactment of a proper law containing the necessary provisions for the due submission of the amendment at the next annual election. THE JUDICIARY AMENDMENT.

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Two Legislatures having duly passed an amendment to the judiciary article of the constitution providing for the election of additional Justices of the Supreme Court, it will be the duty of the present Legislature to provide by suitable legislation for its submission to the people.

The last Legislature passed an act for that purpose, but it proved defective and failed to receive Executive approval, after the final adjournment of the Legislature, and hence another act becomes necessary at this time.

If, for any reason, no matter what, a constitutional obligation has been omitted or has not been fully performed by one Legislature, it becomes the bounden duty of the next Legislature to perform it at the first opportunity. Although it may be doubted whether the interests of the bitate really require this amendment at this time, and also whether it will be approved by the people at the puls, yet it having duly passed two pravious Legislatures, the present Legislature has no other alternative under the Constitution except to duly provide for its submission, and permit the people to determine the matter for themselves.

REFORMS IN METHODS OF TAXATION. REFORMS IN METHODS OF TAXATION.

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The subject of taxation, always an interesting and important question, is one demanding your earnest attention especially at this time.

The condition of the agricultural interests of the State, which are closely allied with its general prosperity and largely affected by any system of taxation, may appropriately be taken into consideration in determining what changes in present methods are most desirable.

It seems to be conceded that farming lands during recent years have largely decreased in value, and that the occupation of farming is gradually becoming less prolitable than formerly; that the prices for farm products have been greatly and ruinously reduced; that whiler and better markets, although much needed, are not forthcoming; that taxes are numerous and oppositive, as well as unequally distributed, and that a general depression seems to pervade bearly every agricultural interest.

To alleviate or remedy these unfortunate conditions is the serious problem with which the people's representatives everywhere are confronted, and the solution of which requires the exhibition of the highest statesmanship. While you may be powerless to afford much assistance in mitigating many of these compinints, it is believed to be within your province to especially and materially aid the cause of agriculture in the reduction and equalization of the burdens of government, so far as State taxation is concerned, by the adoption of some wise and practical legislation which will relieve farming lands and real estate generally from longer bearing an undue proportion of taxes, and which will compel personale

legislation which will relieve farming lands and real estate generally from longer bearing an undue proportion of taxes, and which will compel rersonal property to assume its just and reasonable share. This is not an easy task, but, nevertheless, the difficulties which embarrass it are not insurmountable. Too much should not be attempted or else the risk is encountered of accomplishing nothing. A few changes in the present system of taxation may appropriately be made at this time and then await the practical results of such innovations before determining whether more are desirable.

Thoughtful observers who have made the subjects of taxation and values their careful study for many years estimate that the value of the personal property of our State nearly equals the value of its real estate. This view is largely confirmed by the repeated statements of our State Assessors, and is further partially corroborated by the records of our clerks' offices and surrogates' courts as well as other accessible information. If, however, this estimate shall seem to be exaggerated, it may at least be safely asserted that the value of personal property exceeds 70 per cent of the value of real estate, and that such fact would be amply established under a proper system of taxation.

Yet the assessment rolls of the State under

of personal property second to per cent of the value of real estate, and that such fact would be amply established under a proper system of taxation.

Yet the assessment rolls of the State under existing laws make a very different exhibit. According to the present assessment (the equalization of which was fixed in October last), the personal property in the state is valued at only \$385,329,131, while the real estate is valued at \$3,298,322,431, the personal property thus being assessed at only about one-eight as much as the real extate. It is evident that such a showing is an incorrect one, and may be accounted for in part because of a lax administration of existing tax laws, but mainly because such laws are imperfect in themselves.

The manner in which assessments are to be made is fixed by the lievised Statutes, which provide that the taxable personal property owned by a person shall be taxed at its full value "after deducting the just debis owing by him."

This latter provision has existed without change or amendment ever since its list enactment in 1828, although its utility has often been seriously questioned. Every effort at modification has been stoutly and successfully resisted notwithstanding it has been repeatedly proved that its existence furnishes the avenue through which personal property substantially escapes all taxation.

The facility with which taxation is evaded under the opportunities afforded by this clause furnishes a strong argument for its reneal.

It is urged with much force that this provision invices perjury, encourages fraud, establishes a wrong principle, prevents equality in taxation, and practically exempts personal property.

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lishes a wrong principle. Prevents equality in taxation, and practically exempts personal property.

It is claimed that the true theory of taxation requires that the property of a person, and not the person himself, should be taxed, and that, therefore, the indebtedness of the owner is an immatterial matter, and furnishes no adequate excuse for the execution of the property. Under the operation of the property. Under the operation of the property. Under the operation of the property system, where fraud is so easily perpetrated and detection so difficult, it may well be said that the taxation of personal property is virtually left to the conscience of its owner. This presents an unsatisfactory condition of affairs, and leads to the suggestion that some reform is needed in our tax laws.

Iteal estate now bears about \$9 per cent, of our direct State taxation, and the injustice of this situation is so apparent that it is believed the Legislature cannot longer refuse to provide some relief.

The present system of taxation is regarded not only as incuritable, but as inconsistent.

While it permitts the amount of the indebtedness of an owner of personal property to be estudy from this assessment no such reduction is nemitted to the owner of real estate, even though his indebtedness may be represented from his assessment incumbrance or other specific lien upon such real estate. It is difficult to defend so unreasonable and unsate a proposition. The effect of this situation is that the statute in theory authorizes or permitts a double taxation.

If it be proper to allow the owner of personal property a reduction in his assessment on account of his indebtedness, it would assent the indebtedness, it would assent the indebtedness, it would assent to his another leaves though the assessment the amount of any mort-gage, judgment or other specific lien or incumbrance upon his real estate. There would seem to be no good answer to this suggestion.

sistent in themselves.
If it be asserted that real estate should con-

tinue to be taxed at full value without regard to the actual interest of the owner in it because otherwise ficitious mortgages and other facitious liens might be created whereby taxation might be evaded, it may be answered that the same, if not a bester, opportunity for fraud and evasion exists in reference to personal property in the creation of fictious indebtedness, upon which to claim a bimilar reduction of taxation.

I believe in the just and equitable doctrine that real and personal property should be placed upon an equal footing for all purposes of taxation.

Whatever rule is adopted should be applied without unjust discrimination. Either the question of indebtedness should be eliminated entirely from the matter of taxation of property, or slies all taxable property should be treated alike in respect to such indebtedness.

The operation of the present system does not produce satisfactory results in that personal property, either by reason of the provision allowing a reduction for indebtedness or otherwise, largely escapes taxation, while the burdens upon real estate are consequently increased. There has been an immense shrinkage in the assessed valuation of personal estate during the past twenty years. In 1871 such valuation amounted to over \$452,000,000, while the provent valuation is only about \$355,000,000, a decrease of over \$67,000,000, thin the vast increase of population, resources, wealth and all the material interests of the State which has occurred during the past twenty years. It is not possible that the actual accumulation of personal estate has not kept pace with the march of progress which has included everything else in its onward novement.

The proposition for the equalization of the burders of taxation here presented affects not only every farm, but every store, workshon, manufactory, and home in the State, and, while inviting the most careful scrutiny of its merits, it is respectfully submitted that it is at least worthy of a fair trial.

A PROBATE AND SUCCESSION TAX.

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If, nowever, the Legislature in its wisdom shall less tate to adopt the radical changes hereinbefore outlined, another method of reaching personal property for the purpose of taxation may be found in the plan of a graduated probate and succession tax upon the personal property of decedents.

Nearly all such estates are carefully appraised by impartial officials selected by our Surrogate courts, and unon such appraisal the personal estate can at least be subjected to one tax, although it may never have been able to be reached during the life of the decedent. A system can easily be decised absolutely requiring all estates of decedents over a certain valuation to be administered in a Surrogate's court, to the extent of obtaining an appraisal of the bersonal property thereof, and after allowing reasonable exemptions to the immediate best of kin, a fair percentage tax may be imposed apon the remainder, collectable in the Surrogate's Court, and reasonably graduated according to the value of the estate. The theory of such a graduated percentage tax seems fair and just, especially in view of the fact that personal property under existing methods, nearly entirely escapes taxation during the life of its owner. A similar system is in operation in England and I am advised that it works satisfactorily, and the propriety of its adoption here is suggested for your consideration.

MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE.

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The Legislature at its last session passed an act (chapter 205 of the Laws of 1890) authorizing the Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to appoint three Commissioners to promote uniformity of legislation in the United States on certain subjects, particularly the laws relating to marriage and divorce; and in pursuance thereof, three able and well-known lawyers, viz., Henry R. Beekman and William L. Snyder of New York and Irving Browne of Albany were ally appointed and confirmed, who are now engaged in the discharge of their important duties and are expected to make a preliminary report to the Legislature at its present session embodying such recommendations as they believe to be desirable to facilitate the excellent objects sought to be accomplished. I bespeak for their report that careful study which the character of the subject justly demands.

MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE.

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Improvement of country roads,
I renew my previous recommendations with reference to the improvement of country roads, while the suggestions upon this subject made in my annual message a year ago seemed to meet popular approval very generally throughout the State, they were misapprehended by some persons, who appeared to have inferred that the plan, as presented, involved the assumption by the State of control over toe highways, or the heavy bonding of counties for the construction of new roads and improvements.

No such implication was intended to be conveyed in the recommendations. The plan suggested involved merely the construction at State expense and under State supervision of two highways running transversely through each county, intersecting in about the middle of the country or at its principal place, and so connected as to form a network of well-built roads through the State. It was not intended that the State should assume greater responsibility than this, but it was believed that to this extent the matter of road improvement was one of State importance—adding largely to the wealth and attractiveness of the state, as it would, it y bringing agricultural lands into easier and closer recess to the towns, enhancing the value of roral property and attracting, especially in the summer months, large numbers of strangers to the State. I am as much opposed as any one can be to the assumption by the State of any unnecessary powers or responsibilities, but the initiative of so great an uncertaking as the systematic and scientific improvement of our highways must be taken by the State, or no genuine and general reform can be accomplished. The best individual efforts must necessarily be local and spasmodic.

spasmodic.

The construction by the State, under the surervision and direction, for instance, of the State. Engineer, of two scientifically built roads in each county, so that a person could

surervision and direction for instance of the State Engineer, of two scientifically built roads in each county, so that a person could start from New York or Buffalo, or Albany, or any other place, and travel with speed and comfort through every county in the State without leaving the State roads, would be o incalculable benefit to the State at large, as well as to separate localities.

The State roads would serve as object lessons in each county, stimulating local authorities to the improvement of other highways by presenting examples of substantial construction, and by illustrating the material advantages which accompany ready and satisfactory means of communication. Except in the case of these two State roads, local control would be as complete as it is now.

I need not remind you of the present disgraceful condition of our highwars. For a great part of the year many of them are almost, if not quite, impassable. They are, as a rule, inferior to those in other States, especially in New England, and they are said to compare most unfavorably with those of England and the Continent. The fault has been in ignorance of construction, in tack of responsibility and in waste of energy and money in maintenance. Sconer or later our State must begin a systematic attempt at improvement, or our farming lands will depreciate still further in value, and other States will attract the wealth and population to which our resources and natural advantages entitle us. The cost of such a system of highway as I have outlined would be great, and their completion would require many years, but no better time for inaugurating the system will probably come than the present. There is now, practically, no State debt, and should it is be deemed best to incur one for this purpose by a vote of the people, the slight increase in material benefits. It should not be lorgotten also, that when once Proper roads are constructed the cost of maintenance, according to the tost import of compelent engineers, is comparatively slight, while with but littl

year, and that the Legislature will not refuse to cooperate in securing for the people of the State the benefits of this great public improvement.

RAPID TRANSIT IN NEW YORK.

The need of legislative action to facilitate the sequirement of means of rapid transit in the city of New York becomes more imperative each year. Such action cannot longer be deferred without seriously retarding the city's growth and prosperity.

As to the general nature of the legislation required there is now practically no controversy. Such differences as have heretolore existed were substantially reconciled at the last seesalon of the Legislature. A gapid transit bill failed of enactment at that essent of the Legislature refused to accept in the measure the salutary principle of home rule in the appointment of a commission. It is to be hoped that no such short-sighted impulse will again be the means of depriving the people of New York from much-needed facilities for local transit. In a matter so distinctively of local concern and importance as the laying out of transit routes and the supervision of transit methods, the local authorities, by themselves or officers of their selection, should be invested with the control and responsibility. To deny them that right is to deny sell-government to the chief city of the State. Much as the people of New York desire rapid transit, they do not desire it, in my opinion, as the price for the surrender of the principle was manifested during the controversy over the so-called World's Fair bill last spring, and compelled, finally, its recognition by the Legislature, although the desperate effort to defeat that principle provoked and prolonged an unfortunate contest which concededly lost New York the World's Fair, In view of recent events, however, it is not believed that any jurther serious opposition to this principle will now be manifested.

During the labor difficulties arising out of the strike of certain of the employment of private desectives.

The statute creating the Board of Arbitrability th

tion and Mediation, which provides for the amicable adjustment of labor controversies, contemplates that the functions of the Board shall only be invoked by the voluntary action of both of the parties to the dispute. Either party may decline to accept the intervention of the Board, and for such resumal there is no remedy or remaity prescribed.

The theory of the atatute seems to be that the State simply creates a fair and impartial standing tribunal which is always at hand, and to which the parties to a labor controversy are at liberty, without any expense to themselves, to voluntarily submit their differences for amicable adjustment; but no method of compelling such submission is provided.

This is probably all that can be accomplished by legislation to facilitate the arbitration of such controversies as between individuals, but as between corporations and their employes, it is believed to be possible, as well as feasible, to enlarge the scope of the existing statute by making such arbitrations compulsory.

Corporations are the creatures of the law, and their mannamement and scions, as well as the conduct and relations of their employes, can, to a large extent, be regulated by statute, and the enforcement of arbitration practically controlled thereby.

to enlarge the section of the actioning statute by Corporations are the erective of the law, and lawly management and serious, as well as each to a large sectant, to remind the variety of the country of the law in the la

we have opened the door to grave abuses of power-resulting sometimes in seriously nullifying the popular will and almost always in a denial of justice to rightfully elected members. A political majority usually exhibits judicial qualities only when it is large enough to be generous. Otherwise it is apt to decide election cases not upon their merits, but according to party necessities. Such practices bring our legislative bodies into disrepute and tend to promote political demoralization.

In Great Britain the scandals attending the tyrannical exercise of this power by the house of Commons resulted in a surrender of the prerogative in 1868, and recent abuses of it in our own country emphasize the necessity of a speedy transfer of jurisdiction in Federal and State governments here.

I therefore renew my suggestion for the passage of a concurrent resolution submitting to the people an amendment to the State Constitution which will conter upon the courts the exclusive authority to decide the elections of members of the Legislature. Our State would do well also in taking the lead to bring about a similar change in the Federal Constitution.

Contests for legislature of legislatures would then, under such a modified system of adjudication, be upon the same plane with contests for other offices. A certificate of election would entitle the holder to retain his seat in the Legislature until oute; by the judgment of a competent court. I do not fear that the judiciary would be influenced by partisan motives, and the net result would be in my ophion a distinct gain in the direction of the impartial determination of election cases.

CHICKAMAUGA AND CHATTANOOGA NATIONAL MILITARY PARK. CHICRAMAUGA AND CHATTANOGA NATIONAL MILITARY PARK.

The Congress of the United States has provided for purchasing the battlefield of Chickamauga, and obtaining the roads along Missionary Ridges and over Lockout Mountain, and establishing thereon a national military park. The State of Georgia has eeded to the United States full jurisdiction over the Chickamauga field, and the authorities of Tennessee have ceded the roads already mentioned.

New lork was larkely represented on these remote fields in the storming armies which carried Lockout Mountain and Missionary Ridge. Twenty New York organizations took part in these operations.

A national commission is now engaged in preparing historical tablets to mark all the lines of buttle on both fields. The Act establishing the park authorizes the States which had troops in these campaigns to erect monuments upon the Government grounds to honor their fighting.

New York has already made most liberal provision for commemorating the deeds of her sons at Gettysburg. I recommend that like action be taken by the State, through the necessary legislation, to proserve the history of New York troops on these celebrated fields about Chattanooga.

THE WORLD'S PAIR.

THE WORLD'S PAIR.

Federal legislation having authorized the scheme of a great World's Fair in 1898, and thicago having been selected as the city in which the fair shall be held, it becomes the duty of each State in the Union to assist, so far as it may be able, in contributing to the success of this national undertaking. The State of New York, with its commanding position in the list of States and its unlimited resources, ought not to be behind any other State in the variety and extent of its representation. I recommend such legislation and liberal action as may be deemed necessary to facilitate a proper exhibition of the State's resources and to enable the State to participate with dignity in the great exposition.

OTHER BECOMMENDATIONS. Certain recommendations contained in my

Certain recommendations contained in my previous messages may appropriately be renewed at this time. They are as follows:

First.—A measure providing for an immediate constitutional convention.

The be also frepresentation for such convention should be the latest enumeration, and for this purpose the recent Federal consus may be utilized. If it is deemed advisable to do so. There are no legal or constitutional objections to such a course.

Facond.—An act to provide for compulsory voting.

This subject has not attracted the attention which it deserves, but it is hoped that public opinion may be aroused to its importance in the early future. It is a necessary measure to fittingly supplement the reform legislation recently enacted and designed to purify our elections. Some of the reasons for the inauguration of such a system were fully set forth in my annual message of 1889.

Third.—A measure creating a State commission which shall include supervisory powers

to avert from the State and the country the evil effects of so unwise a law.

CONCLUSION.

I cannot conclude my last annual message to the Legislature without cordially acknowledging the willing co-operation and assistance which I have received during all the years of my administration from my associates, the State officers. Their carnesiness and ability have been conspicuous and whatever sheess has accompanied the administration of the State Government during the last six yours is due in a large degree to their faithful devotion to the public interests.

DAVID B. Hill.

Neither He nor Varein is in God's Scheme

Feffor José Mora came to THE BUN office yesterday with an interpreter and said that he ad just arrived in this country from Europe. He asked the privilege of denying through the columns of The Sun any association or business connection with Edwards H. Goff or The American Export and Trading Company." He also wanted to deny that Senor Manuel Panicez Varela was in any way connected with

Fifth—An amendment to the "Corrupt Practices Act" of last year chapter 94 of the Laws of 1890, extending and applying is provisions to the committees of every political party. The propriety of a further amendment connelling the filing by candidates of an itemized verticed statement of their expenditures in obtaining nominations is also suggested.

Sixth.—A measure affording legal facilities whereby a successful candinate who can be proven to have obtained votes by bribery or other corrupt or friegal means on the part of himself, his agent or his political committees, may be ousted from office by proceedings in the nature of a "quo warranto" by the defeated candidate and the inter given the office in his stead, provided it abrears that neither the defeated candidate nor his committees have used any corrupt means to promote his election.

This would legitimately encourage prosecuwith the matter, and upon investigation be found that they had seen the circulars which Mr. Goff had published. Senor Mora was greatly astonished to see that Mr. Goff had used his name and the name of his associate.

and thirty-four one hundrells mills (234-100), which on the present assessed valuation will yield \$5.519.748.17. The reduced tax rate is occasioned by the fact that by reason of Executive disapproval after the adjournment of the Legislature of 1889 of various appropriations, amounting in the aggregate to over one million eight hundred thousand dollars \$1.800.000, there was left a surplus of that amount in the treasury, which was utilized in 1890 in losesning the amount necessary to be raised for this fiscal year; and because of the further fact that the assessed valuation of taxable property had been increased by nearly \$100.000,000 since the previous year.

The amount received from notaries during the iast fiscal year is the sum of \$32.652.50. There has been received from the 'Pool Tax.'' so-called the sum of \$22.371.25, and from the special tax on corporations the sum of \$1.153.

978.41. and from the Collateral Inheritance tax the sum of \$1.117.637.70. and from the special tax on the organization of corporations the sum of \$220.718.94.

DANGEROUS PEDERAL LEGISLATION. There is pending in the Federal Congress a measure popularly designated with great accuracy as the "Force bill." which is designed to extend Federal control over Congressional

The terms of this proposed law I need not

curacy as the "Force bill." which is designed to extend Federal control over Congressional elections.

The terms of this proposed law I need not describe to you; they are familiar to the general public because they were widely discussed in the recent political campaign and formed one of the principal issues in the election. By an overwhelming majority the people decided against the measure. In our own State this emphatic protest was recorded in a majority of 70,000 votes against the candidates who ostensibly were committed to the bill's support. Yet, in spite of this indignant expression of adverse popular opinion, the friends of the measure are still urging its enactment, and pressing legislative business in the United States Senate is being ignored while, under spur of partisan goad, an effort is making to rush through this revolutionary measure.

In the defeat of that effort the State of New York and every other State in the Union has a vital interest. Ostensibly to promote pure elections, the measure in reality is an unworthy scheme to perpetuate partisan control. It is a dangerous step in the direction of centralized government. It is un-American and revolutionary. It is an unwarranted usurpation of the rights and privileges of States. It authorizes the employment of an army of Federal officers and the expenditure of many millions of dollars. It practically annuls many State laws and places the determination of Federal elections also outely in the hands of partisan officers. The effect of its enactment and enforcement must inevitably be to intringe the sacred right of representation, to build up a powerful partisan machine dangerous at all times to the free expression of popular sentiment, to turn over the control of government to an oliveral partisan machine dangerous as all times to the free expression of popular sentiment, to turn over the control of government to an oliveral partisan machine dangerous as all times to the free expression of popular sentiment, to turn over the control of government to an

In other States the same conditions prevail In other States the same conditions prevail so that the plea of pure elections put forward in behalf of the Force bill is shown to be false, and the measure finds no genuine support ave as a partisan device. Many partisan acts in our country's history have been passed with no loss ardent professions of pure intent than tho: which are heard now from the advocates of this iniquitous and tyrannical measure. I urge the Legislature, by resolution or otherwise as may seem best to express so embatically its condemnation of the proposed legislation that the united voice of New York's Representatives in Congress may be secured.

over gas, telegraph, electric lighting and telephone companies, similar to the surisdiction conferred upon the Board of Railroad Commissioners over the sailroads of the Brate.

The necessity for some such tribunal has been reseatedly demonstrated, but its establishment has thus for been deleasted. Its creation, however, may be regarded as only a question of time.

Fourth.—An amendment to the Weekly Payment Act of last year tehaster 388 of the Laws of 1890) applying its provisions to steam surface railroads. Such railroads were exempted by that act, but it is believed that no adequate reasons exist for such discrimination.

It might be well enough to further amend the act by expressiv declaring that its provisions were not intended to apply to officials of municipal corporations who receive stated salaries.

Fifth—An amendment to the "Correct Practices Act" of last year tehapter 94 of the Laws of 1890, extending and ampling in pro-CONCLUSION.

Mr. Goff. or with the company. Mr. Goff's circulars announced that both gentlemen were officers of the company.
Schor Mora said that the first he ever heard of the company was in London several months ago. He was there en-deavoring to interest foreign capitalists in a conce-sion of land in the State of Chiapas, which he and his partner had received from the Mexican Government. Capitalists did not seem to want to do anything

meed his name and the name of his associate, sender his name and the name of his associate, senor Mora says that about two years ago the Mexican Government granted to Senor Vareia and himself the right to take up a large tract of land in the State of Chiapas, in the southern part of Mexico, to be surveyed by them or by a company which they were to form. The Mexican Government also momised to pay to these men \$400 for each family from abroad that could be brought to settle there. Senor Vareia came to New York to raise additional capital and form a company. Among the men whom he met was Mr. Goff. Senor Vareia explained to him the scheme, and said that he and Senor Mora had spent \$20,000 in surveys, and that they had made deposits upon a large number of acrees as a guarantee of good faith to the Mexican Government.

and said that he and Behor Mora had spent \$20,000 in surveys, and that they had made deposits upon a large number of acres as a guarantee of good faith to the Mexican Government.

Mr. Goff said he would have no difficulty in raising money to carry out the project. He made over to him and they refused, but they agreed that if Goff would raise the money for half the capital required, besides paying them the \$20,000 which they had expended they would raise between them the other half. The contract was signed on Sept. 17, 1889, it was understood at the time that Mr. Goff was not to have any title to any part of the property until he had raised the amount of money called for by the preliminary contract. It was also agreed in the preliminary contract that if the money to be raised by Mr. Goff was not furnished within two months after the signing of the contract all arrangements and negotiations were to be considered off and the preliminary contract all arrangements and negotiations were to be considered off and the preliminary contract all arrangements and negotiations were to be considered off and the preliminary contract and the the understanding that the money was to be sent in due time and doposited in the Banco Nacional de Mexico. After Mehor Varela had arrived in the City of Mexico he received many letters from Mr. Goff giving excuses and making promises, but the money never came.

About seven months ago Sefior Mora came to New York and made inquiries about the affairs of the proposed company. No satisfactory account was given to him by Mr. Goff, and he went away to Europe with the understanding that Mr. Goff would not use any further the name of the Chiapas concession, and confident that Mr. Goff would not use any further the name of the Chiapas concession. And confident that Mr. Goff understood that by the terms of the preliminary contrast he had no further right to do anything more about the scheme. Sefior Mcra remained in Europe about seven months which the faines and the preliminary contrast he had no furt

Goff's attention my determination that if he does not drop my name and that of the Chiapas business, of which I am half owner. I will take legal steps to make him do so." MRS. BLAKENEY WANTS DIVORCE.

Her Husband is the Brother of Mmr. Munard, a Favorite of Holland's King.

Nyack, Jan. 6.—After nearly twenty-five
years of married life, Mrs. Harriet Blakeney has sued for absolute divorce from her husband, William H. Blakeney. The complaint charges infidelity, covers a period of two years, aud names only one co-respondent, a woman with whom. It is alleged, Mr. Blakeney now lives at a hotel in Haverstraw. Blakeney has not yet put in a defence. Judge. Dykman, at White Plains, last Saturday adjourned the hearing of a motion by Mrs. Blakeney's counsel for alimony and counsel fees because Blakeney's lawyer could not find his client.

Biakeney is the only brother of the famous beauty, Mme. Muzard, the favorite of the late King of Holland. All eld New York residents will remember the story of her adventurous life. When she died, about twelve years ago. life. When she died, about twelve years ago, the princely fortune which she accumulated from royal coffers came into the possession of her parents. They were plain, hard-working people, living at Tappan, N. Y. From them the money descended to "Muzard's" brother William, the defendant in these proceedings, and to her sister, Mary Ann, now Mrs. Charles Tike of First place, Brooklyn.

Ordinary thrift would have made William worth half a million dollars to-day, but his career has been one of the wildest dissipation. He is a typical sport in manner and dress, talks horse, beta freely, and never learned the value of money. He is unable to write his own name. It he ence owned a Nyack newspaper. Two years ago the courts decided he was unfit to have control of his property, adjudged him an habitual drunkard, and appointed a trustee to care for his estate. Later this order was resoluded and he has since been more than ever reckless with his funds.

Mrs. Blakeney is an intelligent woman who lives in semi-retirement in a handsome Broadway home, the former residence of Broker Aliyn in Nyack. A son and a daughter, both married, are the issue of her mar tage to Blakeney. A few months ago she caused her husband's arrest for stealing her watch and some slik dresses and presenting them to other women. Blakeney was then on one of his most hidrons spress and presenting them to other women. Blakeney was then on one of his most hidrons spress and presenting them to other women. Blakeney was then on one of his most hidrons spress and smashed things generally in their beautiful home. The property was recovered and proceedings against him drouped. the princely fortune which she accumulated

The State Superintendent Overruled. Judge Beach decides that George Sceinson, a Superintendent, is not entitled to reinstate. ment as a teacher in one of the city schools, his ment as a teacher in one of the city schools, his city licenses having expired. The granting of licenses, continues the Judge, seems to be discretionary with the City Superintendent. The decision of the Mate Superintendent in favor of Steinson is based upon his opinion that the state license held by the relator was sufficient. Such an opinion is in direct conflict with the special laws applicable to the city of New York, and cannot be concurred in.

A Curious Panel of Jurors.

In the Supreme Court, Circuit, Part III., yesterday, the clerk had a panel of 100, which had been selected from a jury wheel containing 20,000 names. Among the 100 were ten ing 20,000 bames. Among the 100 were ten Strausses, two of whom were Jacob and two Joseph; eleven Levys, of whom four were named Morris, two Max. two Michael, and two Louis, and eight Wilsons two Johns and two Jameses. Besides these there were two Daniel Kellys, two Philip Kalmusses, two Kalimanns, two Rileys, two Kaltwassers, two Dales, and one Hill.

FAYERWEATHER'S CODICIL

EXECUTOR VAUGUAN WITH THE DYING MAN WHEN IT WAS SIGNED. Pastor Lloyd was Not Admitted to the Sick

Presumption of Frand, Mays Mr. Conders. The Fayerweather will case promises to be sensational. It will be remembered that Daniel B. Farerweather left millions to colleges, and, after providing in moderation for his wife and several next of kin, made a few hours be-fore his death a codicil leaving the residue of his estate—some three millions—absolutely to his three executors, Thomas G. Ritch (whose law partner drew the codicil). Henry B. Vaughan, and Justus L. Bulkley. It has since been announced that the executors hold this

amount, or part of it, under a private trust for

distribution with the bulk of the estate among the colleges. The latest development of the case is an affidavit from the Rev. Dr. William Lloyd, paster of the Central Congregational Church, who went to visit the dying man, that he was not permitted to see him, but was informed while in the house that Executor Vaughan (who was heavily indebted to Mr. Fayerweather) was in the sick room, although Mrs. Fayerweather was not. Dr. Lloyd heard later that on that occasion, and not long before Mr. Fayerweather's death, Mr. Fayerweather, who was unconscious for some time before his death, had signed the codicil which, in terms, en-riches the three executors. It was said to be understood, although it was not expressed, that part of this residuary estate was to go to the colleges and part to the executors. The signature of the codicil is said to be very un-

like Mr. Fayerweather's usual signature. Dr.

the colleges and part to the executors. The signature of the collcil is said to be very unlike Mr. Fayerweather's usual signature. Dr. Lloyd said yesterday to a reporter:

"For a number of years I had been in the habit of calling on Mr. Fayerweather every Saturday afternoon. I knew that he was sick. and when I called about 4:30 o'clock on the day of his death Mrs. Fayerweather met me. Mr. Vaughan was with the sick man, and when I sent word up to the sick room that I would like to see Mr. Fayerweather I was told that it was impossible to see him then. I supposed the delay would be a short one, and I waited. Again I sent word up to the sick room, and the answer came back that it was impossible for me to see him. Judge Maurice B. Beardaley of Bridgeport, whose wife is a niece of Mrs. Fayerweather, was in the house at the time, and he thought it strange that I was not permitted to see the sick man. I had been his pastor thirteen years, and knew him intimately, and I was surprised. All this time Mr. Fayerweather years, and knew him intimately, and I was surprised. All this time Mr. Fayerweather promained down stairs with me. "About 7:30 o'clock I again asked to be admitted to the sick poom to see Mr. Fayerweather, and then I was told that he was in a semi-conscious condition, and that it was useless to see him. I then went home. At 11 o'clock that night Mr. Fayerweather died. I have since heard that he was unconscious for several hours before his death. I do not wish to cast any reflections on any one. Mrs. Fayerweather lawyers asked me for these house and I put them in the torm of an affidavit."

Mr. Ritch said yesterday that he was not with the sick man that afternoon, and did not know that Dr. Lloyd had been kept away from Mr. Naughan had intimate business relations with Mr. Fayerweather."

Mr. Nich said yesterday that he was no towith the sick man that afternoon, and did not have time for Dr. Lloyd.

Mr. Ritch said yesterday that he was no not on the was not present when it was signed.

It is said that Coudert B

Mrs. Favorweather's motion as a naming excursion."
Frederic R. Coudert and D. J. Holden appeared for the contestants. Mr. Condert scored Mr. Ritch severely.
"When your Honor sees this naper." he said, "you will see that it is fraudulent on its face, and say I want to know something about it." As Mr. Coudert continue I he said that perhaps he didn't mean to state the case quite so strongly as that, but under the law the paper was presumably fraudulent. "An attorney of this court," he said. "has written himself an heir, and put a million dollars into his pocket contrary to the laws of kindred or charity. There is not a drop of commen blood in his veins and court," he said. "has written himself an heir, and put a million dollars into his pocket contrary to the laws of kindred or charity. There is not a drop of commen blood in his veins and the testator's. The law says that the presumption is against the instrument and the proof is upon the proponia. The last codlois was written a lew minutes, perhaps hours, before the testator's death. It is conceded that Mrs. Fayerweather was not there. Have we not a right to presume that there is fraud when this man has written himself an heir?"

Mr. Arnoux, in reply, said that Mr. Coudert represented unbody of Mr. Fayerweather's blood. Although Mrs. Fayerweather had not been present when the codicil was signed, a niece was there and witnessed it. She had testified that her uncie was competent to make the codicil. Mr. Arnoux said that there was left no ground for the presumption of fraud.

Surrogate Ransom said that the motion was the first one of its kind that had ever been presented to him. He saw no reason for granting it, and he denied it. Mrs. Fayerweather has will begin Jan. 28, and will involve the disposition of six or seven millions of dollars and the characters of two of the executors.

The other motion was on helalf of the contest that will begin Jan. 28, and will involve the disposition of six or seven millions of dollars and the characters of two of the executors.

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The other motion was on helalf of the contest that will begin Jan. 28 and will involve the disposition of the estate pending the contest. Mrs. Fayerweather, in her petition for his appointment, says: "He is a man of responsibility and was not concerned in the making of the will, and is a person competent in every way to act as administrator of the estate.

Surrogate Ransom reserved his decision on this motion, although there was no objection

ministrator of the estate."

Surrogate Ransom reserved his decision on this motion, although there was no objection on the part of the executors, John Norman, in behalf of Hobart College, said that as the will contest would begin on Jan. 28, he did not think it was necessary to appoint an administrator.

THE DOUBLE RIPPER AT WORK.

Accidents in Connecticut While Consting

on its Many Hills, on Bobs.

Willimantic, Jan. 6, — The double ripper has done wicked work in Connecticut within a few days. In this place a dozen of the big. heavy sleds, each carrying from twelve to eighteen persons, went flying down a long hill for hours the other evening. One, called "Trav-

hours the other evening. One called "Traverse," was steered by Michael Connor. In the middle of the hill the steering goar broke, and the great sled, with its load of people, was hursed, with frightful force, against an iron lamp post. Connor had his leg tractured, his face gashed, and was dangerously injured internally.

At Essex a double ripper that was carrying a dozen people down a steep hill in the village at lightning speed leaped eight feet over a jumper, and was overturned. Miss Lucy Everett, who had been hurled a rod, was taken out from beneath the ripper, Her arm was broken, and she was badly bruised. Other members of the party were wounded.

Silding on double rippers is very popular sport in all Connecticut towns. Two bob sleds are hitched together by means of a long heavy plank. The front sled turns under the plank of a pivotal fron and the steersman sits in front, holding a cord in each hand, by means of which he turns the tiller-like steering gear. The sleds carry from eight to twenty persons, and go half a mile sometimes in less than thrity seconds.

New England Express Companies in a Deal, Boston, Jan. 6.-The express business centring about Boston has received a severe shaking up from a movement by the Adams and American express companies to play into each other's hands. The New England territory, and covered by the two companies, is divided in a rough way by the line of the Boston and Albany Railroad, the territory on the north being covered by the American and that on the south by the Adams. The Adams used to exchange northern business with the United States and Canada and the Eastern express companies which operated in upper New Bampshire, Vermont, and Maine. The American beight these two lines out, and then began to extend its territory. The Adams Company kept on exchanging goods to and from the points as originally exchanging with the old local companies, however, rather than the new opnonent, the American. The present deal is to take this exchange business away from these smaller companies in favor of the larger. The movement extends wherever the two lines run. The plan was adopted in New York. tring about Boston has received a severe shak-